

A PARALLEL DATA SCRAMBLER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates data scramblers generally.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Data scramblers can be found in many communication systems and operate to scramble transmitted data. One type of scrambler is a feedback scrambler whose output is XORED with the data to be transmitted. The scrambler operates serially; as each bit of the data is received, it is XORED with the current value produced by the scrambler.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an illustration of a serial data scrambler;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustration of a parallel scrambler, constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3A is an illustration of a table useful in the scrambler of Fig. 2;

Fig. 3B is an illustration of the operation of reading the table of Fig. 3A;

Fig. 4 is an illustration of an exemplary scrambler, constructed and operative in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 is an illustration of a further table useful in the scrambler of Fig. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, components and circuits have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the present invention.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, as apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the specification discussions utilizing terms such as "processing," "computing," "calculating," "determining," or the like, refer to the action and/or processes of a computer or computing system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulate and/or transform data represented as physical, such as electronic, quantities within the computing system's registers and/or memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computing system's memories, registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

Reference is now made to Fig. 1, which illustrates a serial scrambler. The scrambler may comprise a polynomial or "m-sequence" generator 10, one or more taps 12 and a XOR unit 14. Generator 10 may have a plurality of storage elements 16, each storing one element of the sequence. For example, the sequence might be the coefficients of an 7th order polynomial, such as $x^7 + x^4 + 1$, where the coefficients can have the values 1 and 0 only. This sequence requires seven storage elements 16, with one tap from the seventh, fourth and first storage elements. Generator 10 is cyclic, using its output as the input to the first storage element, and has $2^7 - 1$ or 127 values. Any Bth order generator produces an m-sequence of $2^B - 1$. The output of generator 10 may also be used in XOR 14 for operating on the incoming bit.

As mentioned hereinabove, the scrambler of Fig. 1 operates serially. Reference is now made to Fig. 2, which illustrates a scrambler 20 which operates in parallel and may produce generally the same scrambling operation as that of Fig. 1.

Scrambler 20 may comprise a scrambler value table 22, a selector 24 and a parallel XOR unit 26. Scrambler value table 22 may store the scrambler output values produced by generator 10 (i.e. the entire m-sequence) multiple times and selector 24 may select a set of N values which it provides to parallel XOR unit 26 for use in scrambling N bits of the incoming data.

Reference is now made to Figs. 3A and 3B. Fig. 3A illustrates the architecture of an exemplary scrambler value table 22 for $B=7$, $N=8$ and Fig. 3B illustrates the operation of reading from it.

Table 22 may have at least $2N=16$ rows and $2N-1=15$ columns of storage elements that may store the 127 values which generator 10 produces. These are the values of the m-sequence. The scrambler values may be stored in order, where the first row of table 22 may store the first $2N-1$ values (i.e. 1 to 15), the second row may store the $N+1$ th to the $3N-1$ th values, etc. In other words, a row R may store the $2N-1$ values from $(R-1)N+1$ to $(R+1)N-1$. Moreover, the fifteenth row stores the values 113 to 127 and the sixteenth row stores the values 121 to 127 in columns 1 through 7, and the values 1 through 8 in columns 8 through 15.

As shown in Fig. 3B, scrambler value table 22 may be divided into multiple swaths which store the 127 bit m-sequence plus one extra bit. Swath 30 may be formed of the first 8 columns and may store the m-sequence beginning from the first value. The last bit of swath 30 (stored in the (16,8) storage element) may store the first value of the m-sequence. Swath 32 may be formed of columns 2 - 9 and may store the m-sequence beginning from the second value. The

last bit of swath 32 (stored in the (16,9) storage element) may store the second value of the m-sequence.

The swaths may be read in order. The rows of swath 30 may be read first (using an address variable ADDR), producing the m-sequence in blocks of 8 bits. The last row of swath 30 may provide the last 7 bits of the m-sequence and the first bit of the next copy of the m-sequence. Swath 32 (columns 2 - 9) may be read next, beginning at the first row of table 22. Moving from swath 30 to swath 32 may be a shift of one column, indicated by a shift variable SHIFT.

The table may be read by swath by swath until the final swath is read. The final swath may be read until the end of the m-sequence, the 127th bit, is achieved. This bit, labeled 34, may be stored in storage element (15,15).

Reference is now made to Fig. 4, which illustrates an exemplary scrambler 30 of the present invention using scrambler value table 22. Scrambler 30 may comprise scrambler value table 22, a multiplexer 35, an address counter 36, a shift counter 38 and two conditionals or comparators 40 and 42.

Scrambler value table 22 may be at least 15 bits wide and 16 rows long and may store multiple copies of the 127 bit m-sequence in the manner described above. Thus, the first row may store the first 15 bits of the m-sequence, the second row may store from bits 9 to 23, etc.

Address counter 36 may count the row number, from 1 to 16, and may output an address value to table 22 corresponding to the current row number. In response, table 22 may output the 15 bits of the selected row to multiplexer 35. Shift counter 38 may count a SHIFT variable, from 0 to 7, and may provide the current SHIFT value to multiplexer 35. Multiplexer 35 may select 8 bits of the 15 bit row produced by table 22 beginning at the SHIFT + 1th bit of the row.

Address counter 36 also may output the address value to conditional 40 which may produce an enable signal to an enable input of shift counter 38 if the address value ADDR has reached 16. Shift counter 38 may increase the SHIFT variable upon receipt of the enable signal and may provide the current SHIFT value to multiplexer 35. The SHIFT variable is increased only once the address value ADDR has reached 16.

Conditional 42 may receive both the SHIFT variable and the address value ADDR may determine when the address value ADDR reaches 15 and the SHIFT variable reaches 7. This is the end of the operation. Upon achieving this condition, conditional 42 may output a signal to the reset inputs of address counter 36 and shift counter 38.

Reference is now made to Fig. 5, which illustrates a second scrambler value table, labeled 50, for $N=10$. Table 50 has at least 13 rows and 39 columns. The rows may store $4N-1$ values where a row R may store the $4N-1$ values from $(R-1)N+1$ to $(R+3)N-1$. The final row may store the values 121 to 127 in columns 1 through 7, and the values 1 through 32 in columns 8 through 39.

Scrambler value table 50 may be divided into multiple swaths, of which three, 52, 54 and 56, are marked, which store the 127 bit m-sequence. In this embodiment, the swaths store three extra bits.

Swath 52 may be formed of the first 10 columns and may store the m-sequence beginning from the first value. The last three bits of swath 52 may store the first three values of the m-sequence. Since reading the last row of swath 52 provides the first three values of the m-sequence, the next swath, swath 54, may store the m-sequence beginning from the fourth value (i.e. be formed of columns 4 - 13). The last three bits of swath 54 may store the fourth through sixth values of the m-sequence.

Table 50 may be read similarly to that of table 22 with the exception that the SHIFT variable is incremented by three, rather than by 1 for table 22. The final swath is read until the end of the m-sequence, the 127th bit, is achieved.

In general, any Bth order serial feedback scrambler, having 2^B-1 scrambler values, may be implemented as a N bit parallel feedback scrambler according to the present invention. The minimum table size may be determined as follows:

$$\text{Length of m-sequence } S = 2^B - 1$$

$$\text{Number of rows } NR = \text{round}(S/N) + 1$$

$$\text{Number of extra bits } NE = N - (S - (NR-1)*N)$$

$$\text{Number of columns } NC = (NE+1)N-1$$

The rows R begin with the values $(R-1)N+1$ and the size of the SHIFT variable is NE.

The methods and apparatus disclosed herein have been described without reference to specific hardware or software. Rather, the methods and apparatus have been described in a manner sufficient to enable persons of ordinary skill in the art to readily adapt commercially available hardware and software as may be needed to reduce any of the embodiments of the present invention to practice without undue experimentation and using conventional techniques.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited by what has been particularly shown and described herein above. Rather the scope of the invention is defined by the claims that follow: